# CERTAIN PROPOSALLS In order to the Peoples Freedome and Accommodation in ſome Particulars.

## With the Advancement of Trade and Navigation of this Common-Wealth in generall.

## Humbly tendered to the view of this proſperous Parliament, in this Juncture of time, wherein They may both with more ſafety and farre better deliberation judge thereof, and if they ſee requiſit, put them in a way of ſpeedy execution, to the great enriching, ſecuring, cementing, and contenting the Univerſality of this Nation, which hath been much deſired, and ſhall be ſtill endeavoured

by

*Henry Robinſon.*

---

*LONDON*;
Printed by *M. Simmons*, in *Alderſgate-ſtreete* next doore to the *Golden Lyon*. 1652.

# To the Supreme Authority of this NATION, *The High Court of Parliament.*

RIGHT HONORABLE;

Cannot say I now preſent You with much more than what I have formerly either in Print or Manuſcript preſſed upon ſeverall Members of Parliament, which perhaps were taken, as I obſerve They receive every morning of courſe as They paſs into the Houſe, other mens Papers, Petitions, Books, which, through the preſent buſineſſe They are then to fall upon, many of Them may be neceſſitated to put into their Pockets, without ſo much as examining the Title, much leſſe perufing them afterwards.

However I am induced to take this farther paines, in breifly recapitulating onely the heads thereof, and varying their dreſs, with ſomewhat more exaggerating their neceſſity for this Nations wellfare, and Your own honour and concernment, to ſee them put in ſpeedy execution; Expecting to finde You now not only better at leiſure to give eare thereto, but even ſeeking out all manner of oportunities for Imploying the Remaynder of this Parliament, about ſuch Affaires as may yet ſurpaſs, and ſerve as a Crown to all Your former glorious Acheivements of warre, to wit, the putting and eſtabliſhing Us in the wayes of Peace, which cannot be done without confounding the diſtinction of Courts of Common Law and Equity, and reducing them into one kinde, at leaſt, mixt both of Common Law and Equity; The Reformation of many irrationall and deſtructive Lawes, ſupplying new ones in their ſtead; But eſpecially by blaſting the preſent expenſive delatory and corrupt manner of

proceedings in all Courts, particularly that of Chauncery, both endleſs and boundleſs; all which doe eminently favour the Rich againſt the Poore; ſuch as are ſtrong in freindſhip againſt the Fatherles and widowes; even the Juſt againſt the Innocent, and Right againſt Wrong, ſo certainly, as that whenſoever the Poore, Fatherles and Widow, Freindles and Innocent happen to be ſued for any thing this world affords them, could they but ſo much deny themſelves, and theſe worldly ſuperfluities, it were far better for them, according to that Goſpel advice, *Matth.* 5. 40. to renounce them, than wage a ſuit at Law, though at laſt they were ſure to get the victory, in regard if it be rightly eſtimated, it cannot countervaile the loſs of time, expence of money, and the vexatiouſneſs of ſo many years ſolliciting and attendance: But I ſhall take occaſion to inſiſt hereon more largely another time; and at preſent cheifly preſent You with ſeverall particulars, in order to the eſtabliſhing the People in their freedoms, and ſetting the wheeles of Trade a running; Some whereof are of imminent neceſſity, and without which, theſe three Nations cannot ſo ſpeedily attaine to ſuch a competent eſtate of Riches and accommodation, as either to live ſecured from Forreign Powers, or contentedly amongſt themſelves.

It is not the bare name of *Libertie*, and of a *Common-Wealth*, or *Free-State*, can long ſatisfie the People, much leſs content, or really make them happy: Some forme of Government is neceſſary, but all Formes are good, though one more perfect and better than another; And doubtleſs, it may be ſafely affirmed, that even the worſt kinde of Government is capable of being ſo managed, or ordered, as that a People might enjoy better dayes under it, than ever any yet did under the very beſt of Governments from the beginning of the world; So Ignorant have moſt former Governours and Powers been; I rather chooſe to Impute their errours to their Ignorance, becauſe I conceive it may be found upon debate, that no ſort of People have been more Ignorant of their own Charge and Duty, and more to ſeek in their reſpective Stations and Callings, than Governours, or the Powers of what kinde ſoever, eſpecially Monarchicall or Imperiall Powers; and yet what Ranck of Mankind have ſo great advantage, or can diſcharge their truſt, I mean ſo far forth as the People would reſt ſatisfied therewith, wich ſo

much

much eaſe as they, If they were not more Ignorant of their own Condition, their Myſterie and Trade, than other men? Poore People, Subjects as they are called and made throughout the world, are even become contented to beare with ſmall oppreſſions, and cannot eaſily be provoked to attempt the wreſting the ſword out of a Tyrants hand; they are eaſily prevailed to ſubmit unto the ſtrongeſt ſword, ſo they may but enjoy the Liberty of their Conſciences, the Freedom of their perſons, and what they moyl and toyl for: Now, how eaſily may the Powers in being, of any Country at Peace, ſee this accompliſhed? And this being done, improve, encreaſe, and multiply their own Revenue, even to what extent they themſelves pleaſe, without aggrieving of the Subject, if They that take upon them to be Maſters of the World, did but underſtand the World aright: If a ſingle man that hath 10000. l. in his purſe, muſt either be a weak man, or finde out wayes to maintaine himſelfe in an honorable Poſture, and encreaſe his ſtock beſides; with how much more advantage may a Prince, or the Powers in what Land ſoever that have a yearely Revennue of 100000. l. or of a million, doe the ſame? The late King had raiſed his yearly Revenue almoſt unto a million; and it is ſaid his Ambition as then aſpired no higher than the compleating it to a million: Now this Revenue of his, though it had yet been leſſe, had his expences been managed with frugality, and the advance at years end been improved with dexterity, I will be bold to ſay, it might have put him into ſuch a capacity, as that at one twenty or thirty yeares end, he might not onely have bid defiance to all this Nations enemies, even the King of *Spain* himſelfe, but have reduced him to his own conditions, though that Kings yearly Revenue was then neer ten times as much, as being the firſt Maſter of all the gold and ſilver which from yeare to yeare keepes all Chriſtendome together by the ears.

It is not ſo much the tranſcendent wiſdome and abilities of any Prince or Powers that gives them ſo great advantage over others, as ſuch other reſpective Prince or Powers groſſe Ignorance or Weakneſſe which expoſes them thereunto; and I beleive it will be granted me, that Princes and Common-wealths, in the game they play amongſt themſelves, doe commit more over-ſights, and thoſe groſſer too, then private perſons, for this cauſe only, in that private perſons,

as their busines is far lesse, so they can better fathome and looke after it; Whereas Princes, for the most part, think no care so well becomming them, as that of their Recreations and Pastimes: And the Ministers of Common-wealths many times, are so intent after their owne private affairs, and that under colour, and in a pretended pursuance of the Publick; or else if it cannot be made gain some to them, shift it off from one to another until in the upshot (according to our own Proverb, *Every mans busines, no mans busines*) it happen to be neglected by them al: To prevent which great mischeif from endangering this hapily begun Common-wealth, I should crave leave to propound, that as there were in all times & Countries, allowed necessary Revenues, unto Kings and Princes that took the burthen of Government upon them, for the maintaining of their charge; So, if the same course be not taken with all Officers and Ministers of a Common-wealth, that they may have a full maintenance allowed them, they must either be found to neglect their owne Families, whilst they study and follow after the Publick Affaires, which they will neither long have Joy in, nor be accounted wise men for so doing; or seek themselves, not only to the scandall, but perhaps even to the endangering of the Common-wealth.

I would not be mistaken, as though my Judgement were, that Members of future Parliaments or Representatives, which I hope will be able to dispatch all the businesse that is proper to them in some few moneths, should be thus provided for by Sallaries; but absolutely on the contrary, whereby they may not have the temptation of coveting the Imployment.

I may not here omit to make mention of Your great Wisdom and Integrity, in passing those selfe-denying Votes, of resolving to put the Powers formerly committed to sundry Parliament Committees, about matters for the most part totally below You, and exentrick, into the hands of such as are no Members of Parliament, which otherwise would not only have growne to be an occasion of great offence unto the People, but have absolutely disappointed the maine end of Parliaments, through want of leisure to doe such things, and transact such businesses only as cannot be done by any lesse or Inferiour Authority, then of Your selves Assembled in Parliament.

Be

Be pleaſed therefore for the better direction of future Repreſentatives, in convenient time to conſider and declare Your Judgements what work is peculiar for Parliaments, and what not, and accordingly become a Preſident, though You cannot become a Law unto Them.

Be pleaſed to conſider, whether all Petitioners, or even a Boy or Meſſenger in their behalfe, ought not to be admitted, and that as they come to Your door in courſe, and in like courſe be diſpatched ſpeedily with a ſhort anſwer endorſed upon their Petition, that they may know which way to ſteare, and what to truſt to: Alſo whether the like freedome for all perſons to Petition the Councell of State, be not neceſſary at all times; as alſo for audience to be given, ſo many dayes in a Week, to any perſon whatſoever, comming at ſuch houres as ſhall be agreed upon and publiſhed: So much the rather, that by this means many Addreſſes unto future Parliaments will be prevented, which is to be endeavoured by all means poſſible. The great ſtate and diſtance which hath continually been kept betweene the Rulers and the People, in times of Tiranny and Ignorance, wherein poore Suppliants could not be admitted or heard, how equitable ſoever their Supplications were, without the Interceſſion of ſome State-favourite or other, doubtleſſe over-ſwayed the poore hood-winked Papiſts to make ſo many Mediators in Heaven: O let not this Hopefull Common-wealth, run the hazard of being blaſted for not better guarding us from this Idolatry, or ſuffer us to languiſh any longer in the like ſad condition, wherein it hath been almoſt impoſſible for any one to get a Petition to be read either in Parliament or Counſell of State, unleſſe he had a Saint there to befriend him, who if he were not both very eminent and zealous, would likely either refuſe to promote it, or not prevaile to get it granted, though perhaps it ought to have been done of courſe. But for Parliaments, and in the Intervalls, for ſuch in whom the chiefe Power reſides, to ſhut up their doors and ears from receiving Petitions, and granting audience to all Commers, is a ſymptom of the moſt deſperate Lethargy in the Powers, and conſequently of ſudden Innovation and miſery to the Nation.

Nay I will goe one degree higher, and aſſert, that it is far leſſe miſchivous to indulg a Liberty of Libelling, then to deny the freedome of Petitioning and ſpeaking truth; though indeed

that

that which some Persons and those in Powers too, sometimes terme libelling, may prove too sad and reall truths: This Nation hath encountred much thereof within these twelve yeares, And yet it ought to be as ingeniously acknowledged, that even our Greatest Deliverers have been as highly slandered; But what are they the worse for it? Hath it not added to their renowne? And they become so much more glorious Conquerours of their owne Passions, whilst they continued doing good for such as requited them with evill? Whereas if the Liberty both of Speech and Printing had been restrained, under pretext of preventing libelling, we had to this day been continued in that deep ignorance and superstition, which together with our Predecessors we were borne in, never have been freed from Tyranny, nor exempted from Taxes of all sorts, as shortly we may expect to be: The Citizens of *Rome*, even in these latter Centuries did so highly value this Liberty of speaking their minds, as that they would not be baffled out of it by their Popes Spiritualls nor Temporalls; Witnesse that weather-beaten mained statue of *Pasquin*, which they Fished up againe from the bottome of the River *Tyber*, and placed it where now it stil is to be seen; a most constant Avoucher & Abettor of whatsoever they are forced to Publish in the Streets, because it will not be admitted in the Court.

Be pleased then to Proclaime an absolute Liberty of Conscience, with a Toleration of all differing opinions, provided they reproach not one another, much lesse those formes which shall be chiefly countenanced by Authority: Let not the Assembly prevaile with their Bug-beare words of Heresie or Blasphemy, thereby transporting You to act beyond Your owne Reason or Understanding, untill they can tell You the difference between blaspheming God, and the King, and what is meant by blaspheming of the King, 1 *Kings* 21. 10. Or Infallibly demonstrate this or that which they assert for Heresie to be so.

Be pleased to take away the scandall and temptation from the Gospel-Ministry, not only of being Tyth-coveters, but of persecuting and Impleading People for their Tyths sake, which even the Jewes to whom only they were due, and they only of the Tribe of *Levi*, and that in *Canaan* only, were never warranted by the Law of *Moses*; nor did any of them ever practise otherwise then receiving them from such as paid them voluntarily,

except the Sonnes of *Eli*, who for that cauſe were called the *Sonnes of Belial*, as You may ſee 1 *Sam. ch.* 2. from verſ. 8. to the 17. Eaſe many of the beſt of People of this Nation by diſmounting that Ordinance for *Treble damages* for refuſing payment, which they doe moſt conſcientiouſly and ſincerely: The work would neither be difficult nor chargeable: Pleaſe only to Enact all Tythes, &c. payable at preſent to the Miniſtry, to be paid unto Officers of the Common-wealth, and that the Common-wealth allow a competent maintenance to all approved Preaching Miniſters, whether in Parochiall or private Aſſemblies, as hath been for many years, and is ſtill practiſed by the Provinciall States of *Holland*, even towards the Engliſh both of the Presbyterian, and Congregationall or Independent way at *Amſterdam:* But this is not all, the Inequality of Tything both of the Miniſter and Impropriator is deſtructive to Husbandry, and occaſions that Bread-Corne is continually ſo ſcarce and dear amongſt us: to prevent which, It may likely be found expedient, that ſuch lands as are plowed be rated by the acre, and rather pay leſſe then other land, in regard of the great charge and conſequently hazzard the Husband-man is at in plowing of them up, whereby he may be encouraged to plow greater quantity then formerly.

Be pleaſed to declare our freedome from being compelled to any manner of Oathes or Covenanting Engagements, which, as Light and Liberty burſt out amongſt us, doe daily more and more diſcover, not only the unneceſſarineſſe thereof, but even the Evil and Entanglements, into which they brought us unavoydably through the Peoples differing Judgements and apprehenſions, each one interpreting them (and that rightly too) in their owne ſenſe, whereby they think themſelves obliged to perſecute and oppoſe one another, who before lived lovingly in Peace, and might have ſtill continued ſo, had they not been joyntly engaged by Oath, which it was impoſſible for them all explicitly to underſtand alike, and conſequently muſt find themſelves bound to fall out and quarrell, even for Conſcience and their Oathes ſake.

In the next place be pleaſed to caſt your thoughts on what is to be enacted for the Recovery and Advancement of Trade; The Councell of Trade are ſayd to have prepared ſeverall Bills in order thereunto; and it is high time that not only all manner

ner of obſtructions be removed, but alſo that all manner of Advantages be ſearched out and made uſe of before it be too late.

The firſt great preheminence which (amongſt Forraigne Nations) the *Hollanders* and ſome others of the United Provinces have of us, is, In that their Inhabitants liye together in Townes and Cities of indifferent magnitudes, neither too little, nor too big, whereby they are enabled to accommodate and help themſelves to the beſt advantage, without making Proviſions, as to Food or Trading over dear.

The ſecond is, in that ſo many of their ſaid Townes and Citties, either lye Scituated by the Sea-ſide, or have Navigable Rivers or Ditches from one unto another, and ſo into the Sea, by which meanes they have not onely all manner of Victualls brought ſo much cheaper unto them, but alſo all manner of Raw or unwrought Commodities, whereby their People are ſet a work, and by this meanes can afford all ſorts of Manufactures, and Artificers work, ſo much cheaper as is the difference betweene Land and Water carriage.

Thirdly, they have moſt of their firſt materialls for building and rigging Ships cheaper; man them with fewer perſons, and Victuall them with courſer fare, and at cheaper rates, by which meanes they can carry all manner of bulkie Commodities (the fraight whereof riſes high) ſo much cheaper, as muſt neceſſarily beat us out of all Markets, where they have a deſire to doe it.

Fourthly, they alwayes have great ſtore of moneyes, even whatſoever ſummes can be deſired upon good ſecurity at Intereſt for four or five in the hundred.

Fiftly, They have in a manner the whole Fiſhing Imployment, as it were engroſſed unto themſelves, I mean thoſe of the United Provinces, but chiefly the *Hollanders* and *Zealanders*, which with Butter, Cheeſe, Rootes, (for little Fleſh ſerves their turnes) does not onely fully victuall themſelves, but are by them exported into other Countryes in ſuch great aboundance, as that the whole Trade of thoſe Provinces is but the Return of their Fiſherie, ſo manifoldly complicated, as that it far exceeds, and is of far greater concernment to them, than all the Trade of theſe three Nations.

To countermaund which, wee have no other remedy, but to

fly

fly to their own weapons, untill better preſent, and that is,

1. To make all Rivers Navigable as much as may be, and cut navigable Ditches in all places where the ground and ſcituation will permit, and where there are no Rivers neer unto the Towns already built, nor poſſibility of cutting Navigable Ditches; it will be neceſſary to ſee where ſuch Navigable Rivers or Ditches may be made, and accordingly have them cut with all convenient expedition, and Towns and Cities built upon them in ſuch manner, as the ſayd Rivers and Ditches may be brought through the ſaid Townes and Cities in ſundry Channells, and that as much as is poſſible there be an outlet from the ſayd Rivers or Ditches into the Sea.

2. That without farther delay the Parliament order, and ſee it put in execution, that in all the Fenns already drained, or to be drained, there be no ſtragling Tenements or houſes for any perſons to live in, except for Husband-men, who are not to be farre from their work and Calling, but that there be Townes and Cities built at an indifferent diſtance, where People of all other Occupations are to reſide, and navigable Rivers and Ditches made from one to another, and ſo into the Sea, which may be done with ſo many, and ſuch great advantages, as no part of the United Provinces doe yet enjoy the like, and make thoſe Fenny Lands, which at preſent are unpeopled, and ſo little worth, become more fruitfull, more populous and rich, not onely than any part of *England*, but even of the whole World, as having the preheminence of being deſigned ſo from the firſt foundation and beginning.

3. That the Parliament (before the Nurcery of Timber for building Ships be quite deſtroyed, whereof there wants but little, I mean neer the water ſide to be had at eaſie rates, it being almoſt thrice as deare as it was about thirty yeares agoe) doe prohibit not onely the cutting downe of Timber for Shipping, but that none capable of becoming fit for Shipping be uſed for building Houſes (I mean about the walls) in any part of *England*; nor for firing, but where there is no poſſibility of having Sea-coale or Pit-coale at moderate rates; and that the Nation be put to ſeeke out and fetch from abroad all manner of Timber to build Ships withall, before the day of our extremity, till which, if wee happen to deferre it, we ſhall then in likelihood not be able to attaine it, except by permiſſion of our emu-

lating, if not envying Neighbours, whose mercies wee may finde to be *Amboyna*-like cruelties, and so much worse than their vassalage, by how much that People, though subject to Excise and Taxes, may be thought one of the happiest throughout the knowne world, in that they have not onely speedier Justice, than elsewhere, amongst themselves; but are by their Powers, who finde the advancing Trade to be the onely true State Interest and Pollicy, protected from all Forraign Injuries, and enjoy a full liberty of Conscience, and by the wise management of their Overseers, have such accommodations and advantages of Trading provided for them to their hand, as that they scarce have a beggar amongst them, and generally live so comfortably and contentedly, as no Nation does the like.

4. That some course be taken whereby the Money stock of the Nation may be encreased to such a plentifulnesse, as that moneys may be had for all mens occasions at foure or five in the hundred, according to the security to be given, which the Act lately come out for reducing Interest to six in the hundred cannot doe; since, (besides the being compulsory, which perhaps were in all cases best to be forborne, except where one man injured another in person or estate): that Statute cannot encrease the money stock of the Nation, but rather contrariwise, as occasioning lesse money to be had at Interest, and if the taking higher Interest were not punishable, Forraign Nations as they did before these troubles, would likely bring in Moneys to put out at Interest, and wee had better pay twelve or thirteen in the hundred, as they doe in *Turkey*, if wee cannot get it cheaper, than be quite without it. Now the *Hollanders* can better a while longer forbeare that benefit which they made in *England* by Interest, than this Nation can their Trade, which like water being once stopped in its usuall course, makes its own way by another channell, and is not so easily brought back againe. Wherefore some other course must be faln upon, which hath power of multiplying the said stock of the Nation, either effectively or virtually to all intents and purposes; severall whereof are herein propounded, and have been upon other occasion more largely insisted on, which had they been made use of, would long since have been successfull against all objections or oppositions.

5. That the Fishing Trade be faln upon in earnest what ever

it

it coſt, without which there can be no conſiderable nurcery or ſucceſſion of Marriners, nor the Trade of this Common-wealth become predominant, and if not predominant over others, muſt become ſubſervient unto others.

6. That withall poſſible conveniency wee enlarge our Forraign Plantations, and get farther footing in *Barbarie*, *Eaſt* and *Weſt Indies*, with other Countries whereſoever it may be compaſſed. Not onely that wee may the better provide our ſelves of Canvas for Sailes, Maſts, Timber, with all other things neceſſary for Shipping within our own Dominions; but alſo in that a little ſpot of ground, as *England* is, with its Dominions, if it doe not enlarge them, in future generations, I feare me, will be found inconſiderable in reſpect of *Spain*, *Portugall*, the *United Provinces*, or any other European Nation, which ſhall have arrived to, and be armed with five or ten times a greater ſtrength, power, and riches, either from their *Aſian*, *African*, or *American* Dominions.

Pleaſe to prohibit the killing Lambs for ſome few yeares, untill Sheep become multiplyed to as great a number as ever: But if you deſire to recover the departing woollen Manifacture, or prevaile with the Remainder not to bid *adiu*, You muſt not onely prevent the exporting Wools out of *England*, *Ireland*, and *Scotland*, but muſt neceſſarily finde means of compaſſing all the Woolls of *Spain* for ſome yeares together, whereby *Germany*, *France*, *Italy*, and the *Low Countries*, being diſappointed, not onely our own Run-awayes, but their reſpective Manufactors will be neceſſitated to repaire for *England* to be ſet a worke.

Be pleaſed, for the preſent, to appoint a certain number of Free Ports (that all others may enjoy the like immunity ſo ſoon as it may be granted without leſſning the Publick Revenue) ſuch as are moſt commodiouſly ſcituated for trading with Forraign Countries, or for more equally diſtributing all manner of Forraign Commodities throughout this Nation, as alſo for the better and cheaper exporting the Manufactures and ſuperfluities of this Common wealth, that all Merchandize which ſhall be brought into any of them, and afterwards for want of a good Market againe exported, may be free from Cuſtome and Excize; A courſe which almoſt all Sea-Towns in *Europe* have more or leſſe made uſe of at ſome time or other, as no

ſlight

ſlight Stratagem to make them become populous, and for furnishing themſelves with all manner of Commodities at eaſieſt rates, becauſe being once brought thither, Merchants will rather ſell them at indifferent prices, than carry them to another place, with ſo much more charge, danger of the Seas, and loſſe of time.

Let the Natives of any Forraign Country, who ſhall come to trade with us, be equally free, as to Taxes and ſuch like immunities, with the Natives of this Common-wealth, which will of neceſſity induce them to take up their habitations amongſt us, who elſe cannot make ſuch benefit thereof, as otherwiſe they might; Now righteous gaines and profits are the Rule which all wiſe men ſteer by, and the end at which they aym; and even ſuch Forraigners as ſhall reſolve to reſide and live amongſt us, will get the advantage of the others that onely come to ſell their goods and return againe, who in ſuch caſes cannot take the beſt of the Market, neither to ſell their Commodities, nor make returns: But if it be ſaid, that theſe nimble pated Forraigners will hereby eat, or work the Natives of this Common-wealth out of their Trades and Callings; I anſwer, that ſuch Forreigners can onely prejudice ſuch Natives as are negligent, leſſe induſtrious, or that uſe falſe arts in their wayes and Trades; For if the Natives be but equally ingenious and upright in their Trades and Dealings, they being verſed and ſetled therein already, will have the ſtart and advantage enough of any Forreigners that ſhall afterwards begin and fall into the ſame Trades: But if ſome Forreiners be more nimble, ingenious, and induſtrious in their wayes of Trading, than generally the Natives of this Land; may it not be conſiſtent with, nay even a ſpeciall demonſtration of the Wiſdome of our Governours to encourage ſuch active ſpirited Forreigners to a cohabitation with us, whom the Fiſhermen Manifactors and Artificers of Forreign Nations will certainly accompany, for all follow and depend upon the Merchant, whereby their offſpring in the next generation become Natives like our ſelves? And if by ſuch courſe any of the leſſe ingenious Natives of this Land happen to be outgone in their own Trades and Callings, let them apply themſelves unto ſome other which requires leſſe ingenuity and activenes, as they ought to have done at firſt; and will not the induſtry and ingenuity of ſuch Forreigners

be

be a good leſſon and example to us, and contribute much to the inriching and accomodating the whole Nation in generall?

Bee pleaſed that ſecure Harbours and Ports be made in as many places as can poſſibly be round about *England*, and in each of them a ſtrong impregnable Caſtle that may command the Port or Harbour, and that in each of theſe Caſtles or Forts there be Store-houſes, with all manner of Proviſions and Ammunition for ſhipping laid in at the cheapeſt rates, to furniſh both the Common-wealths and all Merchants ſhips upon occaſion, but eſpecially in the Iſle of *Wight* and *Harwich*, or in any other place where the Common-wealths men of warre may ride or lye at Anchor ſecurely all the yeare long, and upon Intelligence of an Enemy upon our owne Coaſt or elſewhere, with all winds and weathers, from one ſafe Harbour or other, put forth to Sea, and get upon them before they be awares. Whereas at preſent our Enemies may (and 'tis poſſible we ſhall feel it hereafter more ſadly) every night in the yeare, If not even by day time, come aſhore almoſt round about the Coaſt, burne, fire, ſack, make our People captives, kill, with what elſe they pleaſe, and be gone againe, before their Countrey Neighbours which dwell ſo ſtragling, can come in to helpe them, or our men of War get out to Sea, to prevent it, or reſcue them. And that in all theſe places there be Docks for building Ships all the year long, & that being built they may continue there in a ſafe Harbour, until there be juſt occaſion to put to Sea; and that when cauſe requires, they may be found ready to put out to Sea with all winds and weathers, & being at Sea, have Proviſions & Neceſſaries of al ſorts, ſent them from thence, both ſpeedier and cheaper; leaving nothing unattempted for ſecuring Ships riding at Anchor in the *Downes*, about *Sandwich*, or the Iſle of *Tennet*, where a ſecure Harbour would be more advantageous, then in any place of *England*.

That *Marriners* be encouraged by certaine Immunities to take up their dwellings in the Iſle of *Wight*, *Harwich*, and in all ſuch places eſpecially where the Ships uſually Winter, or are uſually laid up in when they come from Sea, that they may be there in readineſſe when the Ships goe to Sea againe: by which courſe moſt of them may be diſcharged ſo ſoone as the Ships get in, and not need to be imbarked untill the Ships be ready to put to Sea, which will ſave ſome monthes pay unto them

yearly;

yearly; for the time which the States Ships ſpend in expecting Tide, Winde, and Weather, in getting up or downe the River of Thames, and out to Sea, and that ſo many thouſand Seamen as the Common-wealth ſhall have need of, be kept in continuall Pay all the year long, to be alwayes in readineſſe when they ſhall be called upon, and to have their Dyet over and above when they are in Imployment; after which manner I believe the Common-wealth may be furniſhed at cheaper rates then at preſent, and Preſſing or compelling them prevented; which, whether for Sea, or Land-ſervice is a very great, if not the moſt eminent body of our former bondage, and next to the degree of Bond-ſlaves, lyable to be ſold in a Market, and no where in common practiſe throughout Chriſtendome, except in *England*. If You have money You cannot want men, and You may have money enough if You will Your ſelves make uſe of ſuch harmeleſſe wayes as have been propounded to You.

Prevent the over-ballancing of Trade, Encourage the Importation of Bullion and Forreigne Species of Moneys; and Regulate the Marchandizing Exchange, which becauſe they are the moſt myſterious parts of Trade, I ſhall crave leave to enlarge a little upon them.

Moneys were invented to be a meaſure or price of all things, and to prevent the carrying up and downe more bulkie Commodities to Barter or Exchange withall, which was firſt in uſe, and for that purpoſe moneyes were made of the ſcarceſt, fineſt, and pureſt Mettall, that it might be ſo much more tranſportable to and fro.

Then as the World went on more refining it ſelfe, Exchanges were found out, as well to prevent the exportation of moneys out of one Countrey into another, as alſo the danger and troubleſomeneſſe of carrying moneyes to and fro within each ſeverall Countrey and Juriſdiction: upon which reſpect the moſt pollitick and expert Merchants in lieu of money ſend nothing but a ſmall piece of Paper, called *A Bill of Exchange*, which being ſubſcribed by men of credit, is thought equivalent to ſo much money as the Bill of Exchange engages for. But whereas Exchanges were eſpecially contrived to prevent the exportation of moneys out of one Countrey into another, through regardleſneſſe of our Magiſtrates, the ſaid Exchanges have been ſo Managed by the ſelfe-ſeeking Intereſt of particular Merchants,

chants, as did not only prevent the importing of *Bullion*, or moneyes into this Land, but necessitated the exportation of our moneyes, both Silver and Gold.

## *Moneyes are likely carryed out of England.*

*I.* Either becauſe there is more profit to be got by our moneyes abroad, then by remitting them by Exchange, or imploying them in Commodities. Or,

*II.* Becauſe it may be moſt commodious for Travellers, or other Paſſengers to Carry them: Or,

*III.* Becauſe ſuch paſſengers are ignorant both in Imploying them, and remitting or returning them by Exchange. But,

*IV.* And eſpecially, becauſe all the Corn which is brought by Strangers, and all the Fiſh which the *Hollanders* take upon our Coaſt or elſewhere, and ſel in *England*, as at *Yarmouth*, *Plymouth*, &c. are ſold for ready moneys, and thoſe moneys in likelihood all exported, &c.

## *The gaine on tranſporting moneyes may proceed.*

1. Either becauſe our Commodities are growne dearer here in *England* to be bought. Or,
2. Growne cheaper abroad in Forreigne Parts to be ſold. Or,
3. Becauſe that they give more for our Moneys then the Intrinſecall value, to melt them in Forreigne mints, or make them currant in Payments above their value.

And all theſe three reſpects will vanquiſh if we can but keep our Trade in Ballance, or rather enlarge our Exportation of Commodities, above our Importation, and eſtabliſh the Exchange betweene us, and other Nations according to the *Par*.

The undervaluing our moneys by Exchange, the accommodating Paſſengers with moneyes whereever they goe, who deſire not to be troubled with Commodities though they might get ſomewhat by them, And the ſupplying their ignorance both in imploying, and returning them may be done by engaging all Merchants to obſerve the *Par* in their ex-

changing according to certaine Tables wherein the intrinſecall value of Forreigne Coynes in relation to ours is to be publiſhed; and if this faile, it may infallibly be effected, by conſtituting a Publick Exchanger, or an Agent of the Common-wealths, who may be obliged to Furniſh all Paſſengers with the ful value of their moneys in moſt principall places where they goe, as likewiſe all Merchants with whatſoever Summes they deſire; in which caſe men will not hazard the danger of exporting their moneys, and if they doe and be diſcovered muſt be made to pay for it without remiſſion.

And when this courſe is ſettled, then it is propounded, That all perſons be againe prohibited exportation of moneys; and that if the Captaine or Maſter, Maſters Mate, Purſer, Maſter Gunner, or Gunners Mate, or Boatſwayne doe contrive or aſſiſt the Exportation of moneys, or but know thereof, and doe not diſcover it, it ſhall be Confiſcation of the Ship, beſides double penalty to each of the parties ſo aſſiſting, or concealing; and that the accuſer or diſcoverer have one ½ of what is recovered, provided it be within five years after the fact was done. Within which time if any of the parties ſhall accuſe the other, and make it appeare by one or two Witneſſes, or otherwiſe the accuſer for the firſt time ſhall not onely free himſelfe from any penalty, but enjoy one halfe as diſcoverer. And the having above ſuch a Summe of money aboard any Ship or Veſſel, ſo long time together, and in ſuch places, ſhall be underſtood a guiltineſſe of an Exportation thereof. And if any other Marriner or perſon belonging to the Ship or Veſſel ſhall aſſiſt, or conceale the Exportation as above ſaid, ſuch Marriners or perſon ſhall forfeit all his Wages then due to him, and if he have none due, be Lyable to a Fine, *&c.*

Now for enabling the Publick Exchanger, or furniſhing the Common-wealths Agent with a ſtock of money and Credit, whereby he may furniſh all mens occaſions by Exchange, according to the *Par*, as aforeſaid: It is neceſſary that he have a Stock, and how that may be raiſed *gratis* hath been made out to ſeveral Worthy Members, and ſhal be further demonſtrated when required. Then,

If the Common-wealth keep a Correſpondent, or Banker in *Paris*, *Antwerp*, *Amſterdam*, *Roterdam*, and in ſuch like principal places of Trade, and have a ſtock of money, or Credit with each

each of them, their Publick Exchanger may eyther returne moneys upon them, or receive Charges from them according to the *Par.* or intrinsecal value, which will hinder transportation, and this can be no dammage or losse unto the Parliament, because their Agents deale onely according to the true worth of the Coynes in themselves at the Mint, what ever the denominations be, or however they be Lightned or Embased: & besides

1. If all moneys Delivered or Received by Exchange, passe through this Publick Exchanger or Banckers hands, or be ordered to be paid in Bank, you may see who are Deliverers, and who Takers, and to and from what parts moneys are remitted, and received, and by whom: and by this Ballance of Exchanges you may see how the pulse of the ballance of Trade beats, by whom, and from whence the Mischiefes concerning the same proceed, and be enabled to redresse them.

2. As by an exact rule in the *Custome-House* you may know what Goods each Forreigner Imports and Exports; so here you may see what moneys he remits, or receives and make a ballance; for Strangers may be thought to be the greatest Exporters of our moneys, and those Sea-men, Cheifly dealing likewise much in Merchandise. Now til this be more fully made out by practise, it is humbly moved,

*First*, That no *Gold-Smith* or other person upon great Penalties be suffer'd to melt any of the Common-wealths Coin.

*Secondly*, That no Gold and Silver Lace be made in *England*, but of such Silver and Gold thred or Plate, as is imported, until we see the *Bullion* begin againe to be imported into *England*.

*Thirdly*, That no moneys be permitted to be sent into *Ireland*, *New England*, *Barbadoes*, *New-found-Land*, or any of our other Plantations, until *Bullion* begin to come in againe.

*Fourthly*, That all Gold and Silver Mines formerly discovered within this Land, may be now further searched into, and others more neerly sought after, for supplying us with a Money Stock of our owne, until we can bring in one from abroad.

*Fifthly*, That there be no pence nor halfe pence made of Silver, because so subject to be worne out, broken, and quite lost.

*Sixthly*, That it be afreſh declared what Quantity of the Common-wealths Coyn, and how much Forreign Coyne every Ship may carry for her owne Store or Proviſion, againſt all wants or accidents, &c. and how they are to be furniſhed, &c. againſt all Immergent occaſions.

Be pleaſed to erect a Court of Merchants for the ſpeedy determining all Controverſies about buying and ſelling, or any other emergencies relating to Trade and Navigation.

That Bonds, Bills of Exchange, or other Bills of Debt, be made irrevocably aſſignable from one man to another, as often as the laſt Aſſigne ſhall pleaſe, together with the delivery of the ſayd Bonds or Bills of Debt, which will virtually multiply the ſtock of this Nation, as to trading to all intents and purpoſes, eſpecially if you can induce the People by advantages to a voluntary regiſtring thereof, for which purpoſe onely there is a ſhort Propoſall ready prepared to be produced upon command.

But above all other Engines or Inſtruments, the greateſt preheminence is due unto a Banck, which hath a capacity of infallible preventing the exportation of our own moneys, and neceſſitating the Importation of Bullion and Forreign Coines, it will prevent the paſſing of falſe or clipt money, with the weare and waſt of money by telling it; ſave all the time now ſpent in telling money; Over-rule the Merchandizing Exchange, whereby the Merchants of this Nation have been meerly cheated in all parts of the world, where exchanging by Bills of Exchange is practiced. It is this onely that can reduce and keepe the Grand Ballance of Trade in favour of this Nation, by preventing the Importation of a greater quantity of Forreign Commodities, than wee export of Native; It is capable of multiplying the ſtock of the Nation, for as much as concernes trading *in Infinitum:* In breife, it is the *Elixir* or *Philoſophers* Stone, to which all Nations, and every thing within thoſe Nations muſt be ſubſervient, either by faire meanes or by foule.

Be pleaſed to let the Bill for a County Regiſter at laſt to paſſe, which hath been ſo many yeares preparing, and yet retarded, no doubt by ſome private reſpects or Intereſts; I meane to paſſe in ſuch a manner, as that a man being to make a purchaſe of Lands or Houſes, may in a quarter of an houre, and for

a twelve-penny matter or thereabouts, ſee who is the true Proprietor thereof, and what Judgements, Mortgages, and other Incumbrances there are upon them; which with the voluntary Regiſtring of Bonds and Bills of debt, as aforeſaid, will prevent three fourth parts of all Law-ſuites, that otherwiſe will happen, and ſhorten ſuch as ſhall be begun hereafter.

But what is it I have with ſo much confidence affirmed? Is there ſo great complaint of the want of moneys, eſpecially at ſuch low Intereſt, as were requiſit to drive Trade withall? And will the aſſigning over Bonds and Bills of debt irrevocably, virtually multiply the ſtock of the Nation ſo much, or ſo often, as the innumerable Bonds and Bills ſo many ſeverall times turned or aſſigned over from one man to another amount unto? And hath a Binck yet a farther capacity, even of encreaſing it unto an Infinitie, as I may ſay, by multiplying it virtually, as to trading compleat in all its dimentions and perquiſits, to whatſoever ſumme a Nation can poſſibly ſtand in need of, though it were to engroſſe and monopolize the whole Trade of the world unto themſelves, as much and as effectually, as if all the money of the world were *effective* brought into that one Nation? And is it poſſible that the numberleſſe Law-ſuites may thus eaſily be prevented, the Remainder ſhortned, and the unmercifull expenſivenes abated, and will we not make uſe thereof? Will ſuch eaſie and obvious meanes be ſtill rejected, or not made uſe of for multiplying our money-ſtock, and for encreaſing Trade, which onely will, and without which nothing can revive and repaire this waſted Nation? I beſeech Your Honours to pardon this ſeeming familiar manner of Interrogating, uttered in much tenderes, and with all ſubmiſſiveneſſe tendered to Your gracious cenſure and acceptance: and yet I may not, nor can I ſmoother how heavily and ſharply the Proceedings of the Courts of *Weſtminſter*, and even that of Parliament pinches us Commoners, which will be eaſier digeſted, and ſoonen forgot, if it be remedied hereafter.

Pleaſe to take into conſideration how all the remaining Fenns may be drained, and all Commons incloſed, which would produce a great encreaſe of all things that the Land brings forth, provided it be done with ſo large alotments unto all people that have any intereſt or preſent benefit thereby, as they may be gainers by ſuch encloſures, if they will be induſtrious.

Con-

Confirme the Lawes in being with a cleerer explanation of them, for encouragement of all new Inventions and Improvements, that each Improver and Inventor may know what advantage he may expect, and how it is to be determined and ſecured unto him, without ſo much attendance and charge.

Conſider whether it be according to the Law of God, or a well ordered Common-wealth, that the Creditors Children or Heires of Malefactors ſhould be puniſhed for the ſinnes of their Parents, Predeceſſors or Debitors, and how heavily this hath layn upon many well affected to the State within theſe eight yeares: If it be ſayd that this is done the rather to keepe people in obedience to the Lawes, and that many deſperate perſons, who regard not their own lives, have notwithſtanding for their wifes and Childrens ſakes forborn to commit ſuch flagitious crimes, to prevent the ruin which would have befaln them alſo; I eaſily believe it, but doe not ſee how it can be lawfull, to doe the evill of puniſhing Children for their Fathers offences, that the good of reſtraining their Fathers from committing ſuch offences may be compaſſed thereby.

Pleaſe to prohibit the no leſſe deluſive and irrationall (as wee ſtand perplexed between Common Law and Chauncerie) than unconſcionable way of penary Bonds and Mortgages, which though they alwayes finde favour at Common Law, yet a man alwayes looſes by them, and ſhall never have them made good in Chauncerie, no nor ſo much as his Intereſt, dammages, and full charges allowed him. And if an honeſt man that hath a Bond, with a double penalty, ſhall apply himſelfe firſt unto the Chauncerie, deſiring the Juſtice of that Court for his Principall and Intereſt onely, alledging that he is neceſſitated thereunto, and to become firſt Plaintiffe there, or els after ſo many expenſive termes at Common Law, to be made Defendant, and hung up by an Injunction upon formall Cavills and ſuggeſtions for ſeverall yeares together; ſome ſycophant or other about that Court might poſſibly put an evill Interpretation upon ſuch proceedings, and endeavour to have the Bill diſmiſſed; whereas if it were admitted, it might likely come to a hearing, and be decreed in a yeare, in regard by this courſe the greateſt part of thoſe formal ſuggeſtions, which delay the Hearing are prevented; whereas if between Common Law and Chauncerie, two, three, foure yeares or more are ſpun out, if the

the Creditor dyes his children or heires are leſſe able to carry on the ſuit, though it be upon a Bond ſigned and ſealed in preſence of a hundred witneſſes, yet if the Debtor have but the Impudence to deny the payment, the Heires muſt be put to prove it, and if they cannot tell the very perſon that payd the money, or if he be dead, for all that I can learn, it is in the pleaſure of the Judges to make them looſe their money; and if the debtor dye before the buſines come to be decreed, and ſatisfaction gained, if he left a perſonall eſtate, that is generally in great part imbeaſled; If land, that is made appeare not lyable to pay debts; ſo gracious are our Lawes, and ſo favourable is the Interpretation of them to ſuch as ſtand in moſt need of being releived, and inſtead of penalties in Bonds, if the time of payment be elapſed, declare the Intereſt to be due, or ſuch greater dammages as the Creditor ſhall make proofe of to have ſuffered for want of his moneys, beſides full coſts, if not double; and inſtead of Mortgages that ſuch Lands be interiourly engaged for payment of Principall Intereſt or dammages and coſts as aforeſayd, and ſo much thereof onely ſould as will ſatisfie the ſame.

Be pleaſed to Enact all Wills and Teſtaments to be Regiſtred in the County Regiſter, within eight dayes after the deceaſe of the Teſtator, or that the Will be found or brought to light, and that no perſon be permitted to diſpoſe of, or ſo much as remove any goods of the Teſtators, untill the Will be Regiſtred and proved by the County Magiſtrate, or ſueh other neereſt Judicature, as this Supreme Court ſhall appoint for determination of all other cauſes, which will much prevent the embaſſelling of the eſtate to defraud juſt Creditors, and ſecure the Remainder to the Legatees and Heires.

Pleaſe to enact that ſingle Bills once proved or acknowledged, be as valid as Bonds, or any other Obligation, and that together with Bonds they may have preſent execution.

That Merchants and Shop-keepers Bookes of Account be of unqueſtionable credit for liquidating or cleering debts, being demanded within a certaine terme of yeares, as in Your Wiſdomes ſhall ſeeme convenient, unleſſe ſuch Merchant or Shop-keeper be proved a knave, or that ſtrong preſumption appeare of ſome miſtake in relation to the Account in queſtion.

That no man be arreſted till after Judgement, unleſſe upon cleere

cleere evidence of intended removall of his usuall habitation, or concealment of his goods or person upon affidavit, and that suddenly upon a Judgement, even in that instant, execution be granted both against person and estate of what sort so ever.

That all deceitfulnesse in Spinning, Carding, Weaving, Dying, with all other frauds of what kinde soever, in any manner of Commodities or dealings, which are exceeding destructive to Trading, be enquired after, and prevented in the future.

That all new Manufactures, Handicrafe mysteries and Trades, practiced in other parts, for els with greater facility or exquisitnes, and not as yet brought into *England*, at left with its perfections, as Dying of Blacks in *Holland* and *Germany*, Crimsons in *Venice*, Watering and Chambletting of Silkes equall to those of *Florence*, *Bononia*, *Lucca*, *Venice*, and other parts of *Italie*; making all sorts of Linnins, especially for Sailes for Ships, and the like, which will yeeld large matter to work upon, and may be all safely and advantagiously undertaken with advice and direction of such as are well versed in all sorts of Commodities and Trading; and (if wee regard our own safety and plenty, both which are easiest purchased by purchasing of Trade) ought to be throughly pursued, though to losse at first; And there is scarce any Art, Manifacture, or Workmanship in any Forraign Country, which with Integrity and Industry of the Overseers, may not in a short time become *English*, in greater perfection and exquisitnesse, than in any other Country, because I doe not finde all these advantages wh ch have been tendered to this Nation, discovered to any one, nor to all the Nations throughout the Universe, nor such diligence so exactly practised as might be, which will still yeeld Imployment to all numbers of People, though they multiply beyond President or beliefe, provided they have but elbow-roome to dwell by one another.

Be pleased to Erect Lombards or Bancks of Lone for furnishing all people with moneys at Interest upon pawnes, personall or Land security, at reasonable rates, which will not onely encrease Trading exceedingly, but also be of very great accommodation unto all others of whatsoever profession: and the same Banck to be obliged to furnish all poore people that shall desire it as far as 20.s at one time upon pawne gratis, to be repayd at six moneths, or the pawnes to be sould: and that the same

ſame Banck be alſo obliged to take off at certain reaſonable rates all ſuch Commodities as poore people ſhall finde remaining upon their hands, and through deadneſſe of trading cannot finde to ſell them off, whereby to buy themſelves victualls, and continue in their Callings, which being well managed by perſons well verſed in the prices of Commodities, with the ſeaſons when, and the places where to ſell them, may rather turne to the encreaſe than detriment of the ſayd Banck.

Be pleaſed to Erect a certain number of Work-houſes in all Cities and great Townes throughout the Nation, whereto, all People, whether men or women, boyes or girles that cannot provide better for themſelves, may have recourſe, and be ſet to worke, of one ſort or other, which perſons of the meaneſt capacity, may eaſily attain to, and performe, at ſuch uſuall wages, or ſome ſmall matter under that which People of the like profeſſions doe give unto their Journey-men or women, provided they doe the ſame worke, both for quantity and quality, that they may live comfortably thereon, and lay up ſomewhat by their frugality, as may furniſh Tooles, and purchaſe a ſtock to ſet up for themſelves afterwards: This will not onely keepe multitudes of People from ſtealing and other lewd courſes, but much encreaſe the Manufacture and Handicrafts workmanſhip of the Nation: Nay, how many hundreds, if not thouſands, would ſuch a courſe as this have ſaved, who within theſe ten yeares, have even been ſtarved to death, and meerly dyed of want, or griefe at leaſt, becauſe they had but little meanes of reliefe, and in a continuall feare of wanting neceſſary food and rayment?

Many of theſe Propoſalls which I have taken boldneſſe to make unto Your Honours, I know to be of very Publick and great concernment, but this as being an Act of Mercy, extending to very many, and they in greateſt extremity of want, I deeme to ſurpaſſe all the reſt, as more ſavouring of Humanity, and more approaching to the wayes of God himſelfe. This being once eſtabliſhed, who ever ſhall be found a-begging, may be confined hither to be kept working a certain reaſonable terme for bare food and rayment: And though this may ſeeme to be matter of charge, and at leaſt muſt require a ſtock to begin withall, yet it is capable of being ſo managed and improved, as had I but a leaſe of my life for five yeares, I would

not doubt, to have ſome ſuch work a foote, as beſides the reliefe which I here hold out unto the needie of the Nation ſhould have been ſufficiently beneficiall to the undertaker and it might have been attempted long agoe, when I was likelier to live to manage it, and joy in the ſucceſſe thereof, could I have attained to an equality of Juſtice, or ſo much favour as a perſon obnoxious to Delinquency hath had.

This Work-houſe might likewiſe take care of all Children, boyes or girles which are found about the ſtreets, as alſo lame and blind people who are not able to helpe themſelves, which here, both according to their capacities and abilities, may be ſet awork; and every man or woman with one arme or leg, onely being kept at work, may earn ſo much as will maintaine them in a comfortable condition.

Then I hope it will be found neceſſary to appoint certain Truſtees or Commiſſioners, of untainted Integrity, and free from Covetouſneſſe, who may have Power of taking into their protection and care, all Orphans and their Eſtates, to ſee the managing and Improving of them to the beſt advantage during their minority, and to be accountable to them when they come to yeares: Theſe are a People who cannot helpe themſelves, whereby not onely their eſtates oftentimes become a prey to men of evill conſciences, but they themſelves, deſtitute of pious and diſcreet education, doe too too often miſcarry in their perſons.

That Publick Schooles where there are none already be erected in all parts of *England*, with competent ſtipends to ſo many head-Maſters and under-Uſhers as ſhall be requiſit in each place, to which all poore people may be free to ſend their Children, whether boyes or girles, to be taught *gratis*, both to write and reade at leaſt, and ſuch Youths as are deſigned by their friends to a courſe of learning, be there inſtructed untill they be fit for the Univerſities, or any other kinde of Clerkſhip. And becauſe Divine Providence hath caſt our lot in an Iſland, which cannot ſubſiſt ſecurely without Commerce with other Nations, which muſt neceſſarily be carried on by Marchants and Seafaring men, who by their Profeſſions are called out to croſſe the Seas, and ſee the Wonders of the deepe: As alſo in that this Land is very ſubject to high Waters in all parts, as that there is no travelling about our juſt occaſions with-

without being endangered thereby ; I ſhould propound

Firſt, That in ſtead of putting Malefactors to their *Clergie*, they may learne to ſave their lives by ſwimming.

And ſecondly, That theſe Publick Schoolmaſters may be Ingaged to ſee all their Schollers learne to ſwimme, and that all others, Parents or Guardians, be obliged to teach their Children elſewhere to reade, write, and ſwimme, or to ſend them to theſe Free-Schooles to be taught: The benefit of Writing and Reading, though it be not ſufficiently conſidered by all Parents, and many poore people have not accommodate opportunity, and competency of meanes to get their Children taught, yet generally it is underſtood to be a pretty portion for Children that have nothing elſe to truſt to, to reade and write in ſome pretty perfection, and therefore doe what they can to get their Children educated accordingly, but Free-Schooles are ſo rare throughout this Land, and Writing-Maſters ſo weake in their Profeſſion, as moſt Children and Youths by this meanes come ſhort of that perfection which otherwiſe they might attaine to ; And beſides, whereas if the Children of the poorer ſort be of any bigneſſe as to become ſerviceable to their Parents, they cannot well be ſpared all day long, which the Parents are forced notwithſtanding to diſpence with, and children to ſpend between going ſo farre to Schoole, and returning, together with the eight houres which are uſually ſpent in the Schoole, the whole day ; when as the Maſter or Uſher cannot attend or teach every individuall Scholler one whole houre in a day ; Now if but one, two, or three houres a day were ſet them, I mean to each particular Scholler, and ſo ſome appoynted to come at one houre, and ſome at another, and the Maſter or Uſher to apply themſelves to each Scholler in particular when he comes, the Schoole being ſuppoſed to be neer, the Scholler might quickly be at home againe to conn his leſſon, or practice by himſelfe, untill he be aweary, I mean ſo long daily as ſhall be requiſit, and bring him to a competent perfection, as to Reading and Writing, and have the remainder of the day to ſerve his poore Parent in, which will become as a Recreation to himſelfe: But as to this feat of ſwimming, that all youths ſhould be trained up to it, I know it is a new Propoſall or Novelty, however when well weighed, I doubt not but it will be well approved of ; and being ſo eaſily attained,

and of ſuch uſe, as that few men who have been good ſwimmers, and made often Voyages either by Sea or Land, but firſt or laſt have not onely ſaved their own lives, and other men, perhaps more than once, but even the Ship with all her Seamen, Paſſengers and goods, which many times are loſt by the marriners deſerting her through faint-heartedneſſe, becauſe they are not expert in ſwimming, and haſtily betaking themſelves into the boate to get aſhoare, whereas if they tarryed aboard ſo long as the Ship could be kept above Water, they might poſſibly ſave the Ship and goods by pumping, and themſelves at laſt by ſwimming, when there were no other remedy. Which how true it is, is manifeſt by the often meeting Ships at Sea forſaken of their men upon ſpringing of a Leake, that within a few dayes, perhaps houres, muſt have ſunke for want of pumping, had they not been ſo mett withall and ſaved. And beſides, upon occaſion of each approaching danger, expert Swimmers are leſſe perplexed, which may juſtly be interpreted a farre greater deliverance, than even from death it ſelfe by drowning.

That Phyſicians and Chyrurgions be appointed in every County throughout the Nation, particularly to every proportionable diviſion of this great Citie of *London*, at the Publick charge, who may be obliged once a day to viſit and adminiſter according to their reſpective Profeſſions, to whomſoever in that Diviſion ſhall deſire it, without any other fee or conſideration, but what the State allowes them.

And laſtly, that Hoſpitalls be erected, and endowed, in every County and proportionable Diviſion, to which it may be free for all poore people to repaire for taking Phyſicke, as well to prevent ſickneſſe before it comes, as when it hath ſeized on them, at the ſole charge and attendance of the Hoſpitall.

And now if any body of a *Judas*-like ſpirit or diſpoſition ſhall object, that I herein expreſſe my ſelfe a very unprofitable ſervant unto the Common-wealth, in tendering to Them ſuch chargeable Propoſitions.

I anſwer, that ſince the greateſt part of this, or of any other Nation, are contented to be ſubject, poore, and labour all day long, that others may more ſecurely Command, be rich in the aboundance of the Creature, and live at eaſe;

That

That ſuch, the Powers or Great Ones of a Nation, even in diſcretion to themſelves, can doe no leſſe, than contrive and caſt about, how ſuch Subjects, ſervants, and labourers of theirs, who after a ſenſe may be ſayd to be their very ſtrength and riches in the *abſtract*, be ſo provided for in all reſpects, eſpecially of ſickneſſe, which makes them ſo helpleſſe in themſelves, and againſt which their ſmall pittance of portion in this world cannot poſſibly make proviſion, as that they may the better be enabled, not onely to continue ſtrong in their ſubjection, ſerving and labouring for the Powers and Great Ones; but that they may live under, and goe thorough it chearfully, and be prevented as to all thoughts and contrivances of change and Innovation: And yet becauſe if all this were to be compaſſed without charge unto the State, the Nation might likelier enjoy the benefit thereof the ſooner; I may not longer forbeare to aſſert, and be engaged upon my life too, to make it out, if I were called thereto; That there is no one of theſe Propoſalls, nor all of them together, but may be made demonſtrable unto any ordinary capacity, and by this Commonwealth be eſtabliſhed and put in execution within a *very very* few yeares, without greater (and perhaps with leſſe) charge than they are at, at preſent, and free from all manner of danger and inconvenience whatſoever; And being once effected, not onely prevent ſo many of the Nation in their Importunities for a new Repreſentative; but both diſpoſe them to be willing, and put You into a capacity of reſigning freely that Authority wherewith You have been ſo long inveſted, with Safety and Honour to your ſelves, and thoſe that have adhered to You. All which is humbly ſubmitted to Your Honours deepe Wiſdomes to be conſidered on before it be too late.

*Errata.*

PAge 9. line 35. add after is, no. p. 13. l. 22. r. then. p. 14. l. 32. r. in, p. 18. l. 5. r. emergent. p. 21. l. 28. r. embeſelling.